

January 19, 2007

This comment is with regard to the addressing of Social Security Statements mailed by the Social Security Administration to recipients living outside of the U.S and the potential for personal information falling into the wrong hands.

I am a U.S. citizen working and living in Canada. I do not currently receive Social Security benefits, but do receive a Social Security Statement, which includes my date of birth, earnings history, projected benefits and the last 4 numbers of my Social Security Number.

My issue is that the mailing address used by the Social Security Administration includes only the following:

My Name
City, Province and Postal Code

There is no street address at all indicated.

Despite the incomplete address, I have received Statements sporadically. I can only attribute this to most recently living in a smaller community where the postal carrier is familiar with names of residents on his/her route. If, however, the Statements have been mailed to me annually, there are many that I have not received.

According to the Social Security Administration's web site, "If you live outside the United States, the address that the IRS gives us is sometimes not complete. We are working with the IRS to try to correct this problem." I do not know how long it takes to correct this, but I believe this has been a problem for a while.

The IRS has my complete address, including street. They mail my tax package to me every year. As long as the IRS has my correct and complete address, there is nothing I can do to correct the situation.

I very much appreciate the fact that the Social Security Administration provides Statements. This is extremely useful for retirement planning. However, the manner in which they are addressed is, in my opinion, a serious flaw. A complete address is basic if there is to be any reasonable expectation of successful delivery. Without a complete address, the Statements, and the personal information they contain, are being sent hit or miss. I personally am very uncomfortable not knowing where undelivered Statements have ended up or could end up.

Can someone not do something about this?

My contact information during business hours is:

Email: [redacted]

Phone: [redacted]

[redacted]